

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRPERSON

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
VICE CHAIRPERSON

SUSAN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCIA FUDGE, OHIO
PETE AGUILAR, CALIFORNIA

JAMIE FLEET, STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 225-2061
<https://cha.house.gov>

RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MARK WALKER, NORTH CAROLINA
BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Tahesha Way
New Jersey Secretary of State
20 West State Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Secretary Way:

As Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration in the U.S. House of Representatives, which has broad jurisdiction over election issues, I write to you in regard to the recent allegations of election fraud, most prominently seen in an August 29, 2020, *New York Post* article, *Confessions of a voter fraud: I was a master at fixing mail-in ballots*.¹ This article outlines the relative ease in which vote-by-mail is weaponized to disenfranchise New Jerseyans and benefit political actors, as recently seen in the case of four individuals charged with election crimes after stuffing hundreds of ballots in a single mailbox for a Paterson, N.J., election.² Included in this letter are references to the issues identified, as well as oversight questions aimed at reassuring me and, more importantly, the voters of New Jersey that they will not be disenfranchised again.

a. *Failure to adequately secure mail ballots:* The whistleblower cited in the *New York Post* article indicated that New Jersey mail ballots do not feature any security features, such as a watermark, that would help uniquely differentiate each ballot. The whistleblower indicated that he would simply make copies of ballots using standard office equipment in order to create more votes for a candidate.

1. How will your office bolster its security of mail ballots ahead of the November general election?
2. What steps will your office take to work with law enforcement and the United States Postal Service to identify copies of mail ballots?

b. *Failure to identify co-conspiring USPS employees:* The whistleblower also indicated that some USPS employees are “in on the scam”: “You have a postman who is a rabid anti-Trump guy and he’s working in Bedminster or some Republican stronghold ... He can take those [filled-out] ballots, and knowing 95% are going to a Republican, he can just throw those in the garbage.”

¹ <https://nypost.com/2020/08/29/political-insider-explains-voter-fraud-with-mail-in-ballots/>

² AG Grewal Announces Voting Fraud Charges Against Paterson Councilman Michael Jackson, Councilman-Elect Alex Mendez, and Two Other Men, <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases20/pr20200625a.html>.

1. What current efforts are made by your office to work with USPS and the Postal Inspection Service to recognize potential election crimes and other irregularities and to identify those involved?
 2. What reforms will your office enact to this process in order to ensure this whistleblower's concerns are taken seriously?
 3. How does your office investigate and/or track ballots that may have been discarded?
- c. *Failure to prevent voter coercion at nursing homes:* The whistleblower also indicated that significant voter coercion occurs at nursing homes, where political operatives will "assist" elderly voters in filling out their ballots.
1. What is the current practice of sending New Jersey election officials to observe and adjudicate nursing home voting?
 2. Has your office ever investigated allegations of nursing home voter fraud?
 3. What steps will your office take to ensure that elderly New Jerseyans are not disenfranchised?
- d. *Failure to identify voter impersonation:* Finally, the whistleblower indicated that when all else failed, he would send operatives in to vote in person in place of actual registered voters who routinely skip presidential or municipal elections.
1. New Jersey does not require any form of voter identification at the polls. How does your office identify in-person voting fraud as described by the whistleblower?
 2. Upon discovering in-person voter fraud, does your office notify the affected registered voters that their votes have been disenfranchised?

The claims made by the whistleblower are simply unacceptable. It is critical that the American people have confidence in their elections. It is my hope that these oversight questions will begin to restore that confidence. We must all work to ensure that every qualified voter who wants to vote has the opportunity to do so and that every lawful vote is counted.

Please submit answers to these questions to my office by October 7, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at the Committee on House Administration and ask for Caleb Hays, Chief Legal Counsel for Elections, at (202) 225-8281.

Tahesha Way
September 22, 2020
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rodney" and last name "Davis" clearly distinguishable.

Rodney Davis
Ranking Member

CC: Joanne Schwartz, Burlington County Clerk
Judith A. Sullivan, Bedminster Township Municipal Clerk
Sonia Gordon, City of Paterson Municipal Clerk